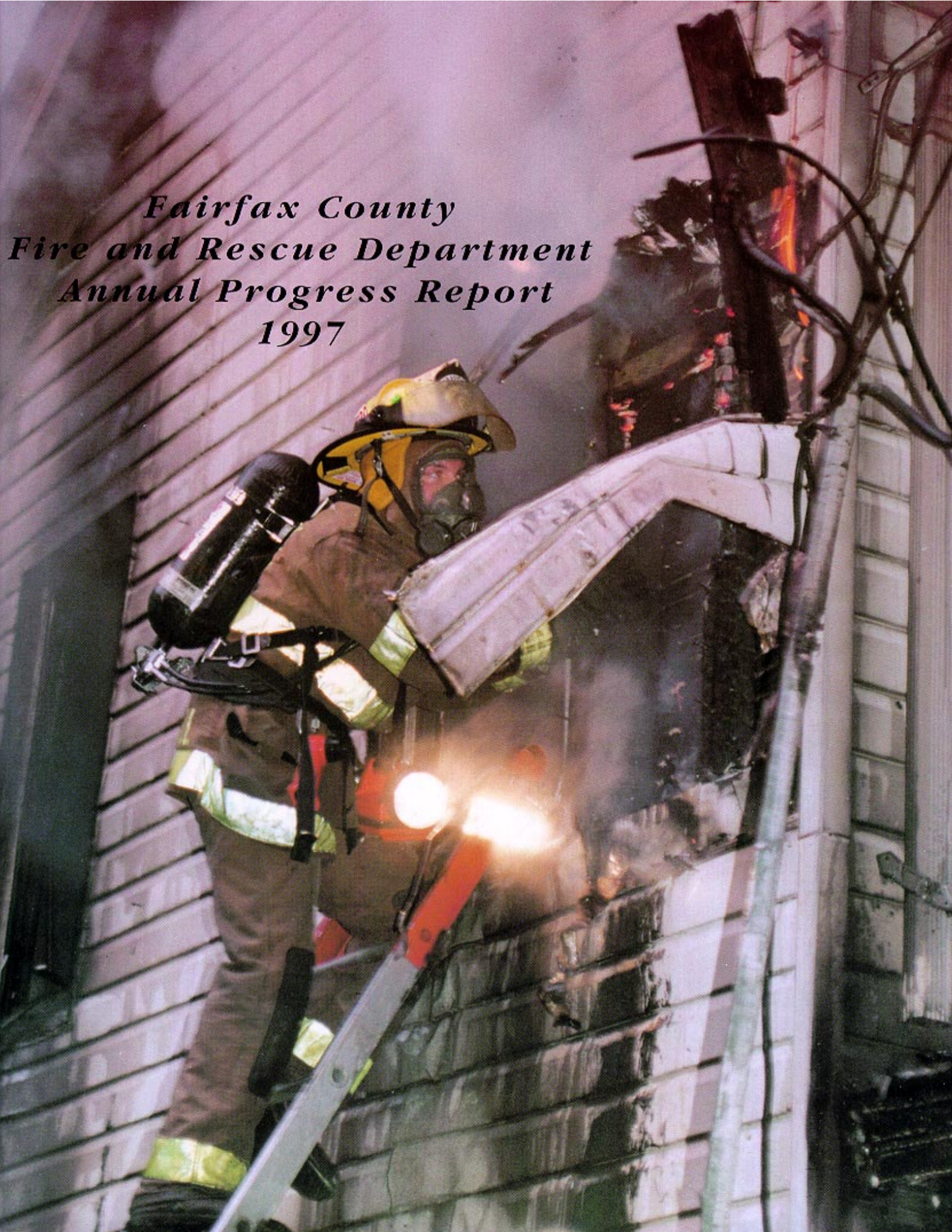


*Fairfax County
Fire and Rescue Department
Annual Progress Report
1997*





COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

Ebby

Table of Contents

Fire Chief's Message	3
Organizational Chart	4
Station Location Map	5
Equal Employment	
Opportunity	7
Internal Affairs	
Planning	
Emergency Services	8
Significant Incidents	9
Emergency Services Data ..	14
Volunteer Services	15
Urban Search and Rescue	
Task Force	16
Fire Prevention	18
Fire Data	20
Support Services	22
Staff Services	24
Occupational Health and	
Safety Program	25
Public Information and	
Life Safety Education	26
By The Numbers	30
Excellence In Service	31



The FY 97 Annual Progress Report of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is published and distributed by the Department's Public Information and Life Safety Education Section.

Glenn A. Gaines, *Fire Chief*
 Dan Schmidt, *Editor*
 Nichole Bullock, *Associate Editor*
 Jackie Lewis, *Layout and Design*
 Scotty Boatright, *Photographer*



Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.

County Executive



Anthony H. Griffin

Deputy County Executive

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Katherine K. Hanley
 Chairman

Michael R. Frey
 Sully District

Gerald W. Hyland, Vice Chairman
 Mount Vernon District

Penelope A. Gross
 Mason District

Sharon Bulova
 Braddock District

Dana Kauffman
 Lee District

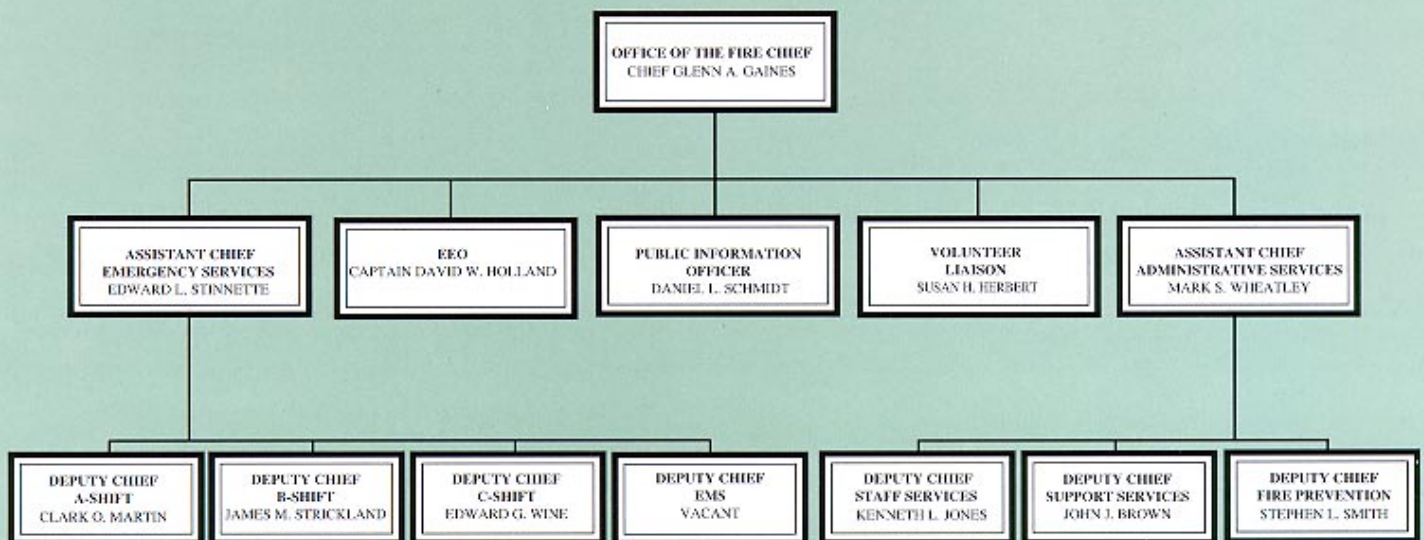
Gerald E. Connolly
 Providence District

Elaine McConnell
 Springfield District

Robert B. Dix, Jr.
 Hunter Mill District

Stuart Mendelsohn
 Dranesville District

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Organization Chart



Chief
Glenn A. Gaines



Assistant Chief
Edward L. Stinnette
Emergency Services



Assistant Chief
Mark S. Wheatley
Administrative Services



Deputy Chief
Clark O. Martin
Emergency Services
Division



Deputy Chief
James M. Strickland
Emergency Services
Division



Deputy Chief
Edward G. Wine
Emergency Services
Division



Deputy Chief
Kenneth L. Jones
Staff Services
Division

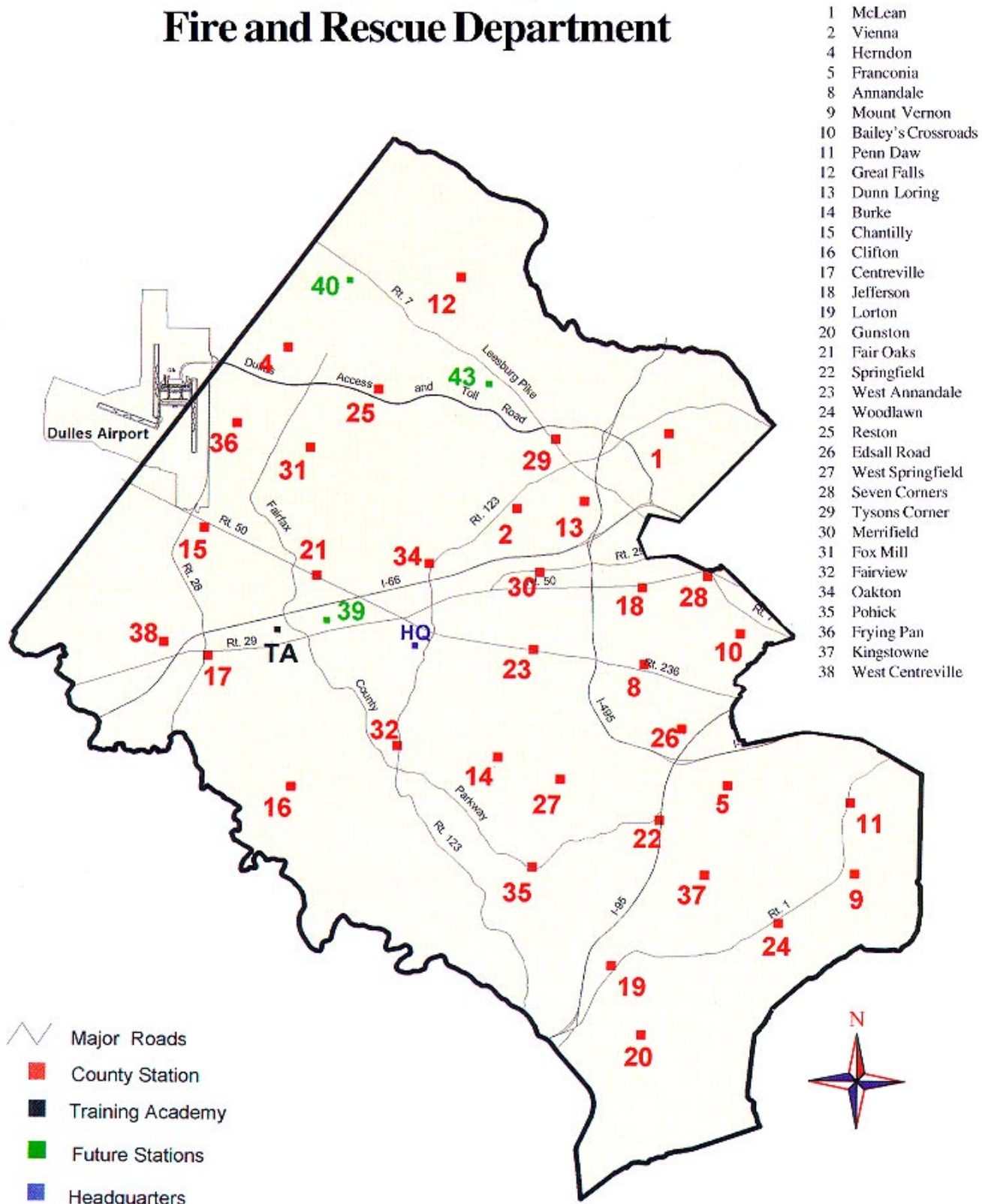


Deputy Chief
John J. Brown
Support Services
Division



Deputy Chief
Stephen L. Smith
Fire Prevention
Division

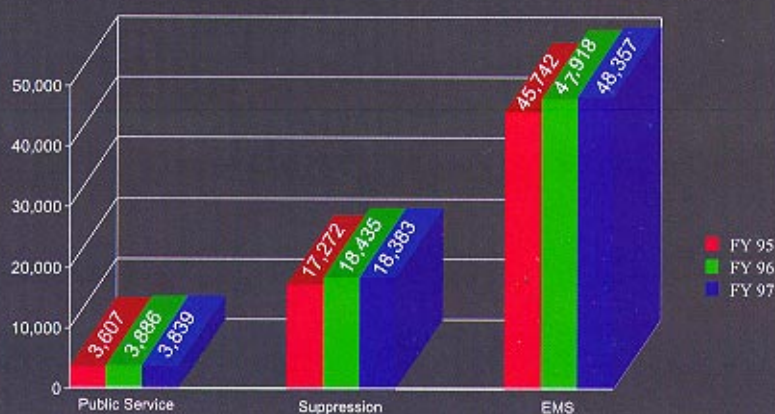
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department



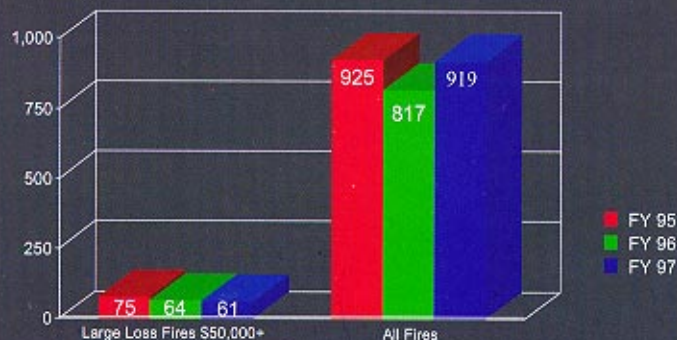
Our Strategic Vision

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will become the national model for providing responsive, quality emergency and preventive services. Effectively serving the public remains our highest priority. We will always value our personnel as dedicated and compassionate professionals, who continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community. We will actively participate in community life and, by example, serve as leaders and role models.

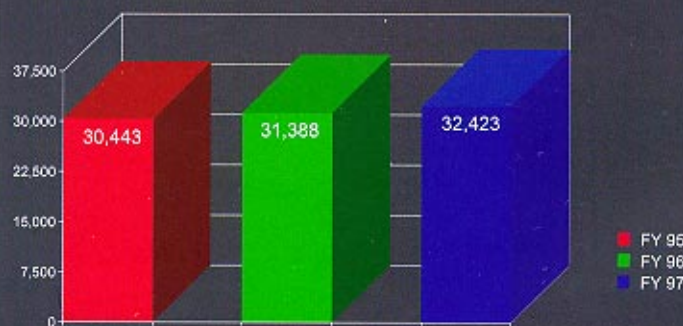
Incidents by Category FY 95 - FY 97



Structure Fires FY 95 - FY 97



Patient Transports FY 95 - FY 97



Equal Employment Opportunity

During the past year, the EEO Office provided training on discrimination, harassment, and cultural diversity to all levels of the department. Nine classes were presented to entry level volunteers, one class to adjunct recruitment officers, two recruit firefighter schools, and one for fire officers at the rank of lieutenant. EEO counselors and others participated in the following training activities:

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs Annual EEO/AA Symposium in Arlington, Virginia;

Women in the Fire Service Conference in Austin, Texas;

EEO Instructor Training Certification, James City County, Virginia;

Americans with Disabilities Act for Managers, Fairfax County Training Consortium;

Train the Trainer for Cultural Diversity, Fairfax County Training Consortium;

Equal Employment Opportunities Studies Program, Cornell University, New York, N.Y.; and

Representatives from the EEO Office also participated in the Slave Memorial Services held at the Mount Vernon Plantation and the Proclamation ceremony for Black History Month in Fairfax County.

Internal Affairs

The Fire and Rescue Department's Internal Affairs Office is responsible for investigating allegations of criminal and administrative misconduct by department personnel. The community holds public safety employees and volunteers to a higher standard of conduct, and relies on the integrity and training of the men and women in those positions to protect them in times of need.

The mission of the Internal Affairs Office is to ensure that the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Department's rules and regulations, Fairfax County's personnel regulations, and the Employee Code of Ethics.



Planning

The Planning Section is responsible for coordinating long-range planning issues, which includes compiling and maintaining the Department's strategic plan, evaluating policies and planning efforts as well as developing study methodologies. This section coordinates, revises, and implements capital improvement projects, including the planning, design, and construction of new facilities. They also evaluate and update emergency response planning criteria and dispatch information to expedite emergency services. Their effort also includes coordinating the implementation of the Geographic Information System to automate the emergency response planning process.



Emergency Services

More than 1,120 career personnel and 243 volunteers make up Emergency Services. Our primary mission is to respond to emergency incidents. These incidents include fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, and various other emergencies.

Uniformed personnel operate out of 34 fire and rescue stations, divided into six battalions. All stations are staffed 24-hours a day by career personnel who work 24-hour rotating shifts, averaging 56 hours a week.

During FY 97, the department responded to 48,357 emergency medical incidents. These included automobile accidents, construction accidents, cardiac arrests, illnesses, injuries, and childbirth. All personnel are trained as emergency medical technicians. Additionally, 375 personnel are certified at the advanced life support level.

Paramedic engine companies were introduced in 1994 and now all 34 engine companies are staffed with paramedics.

Fire suppression incidents accounted for 18,383 calls.

Specialty units, including the Hazardous Materials Response Team and the Technical Rescue Operations Team continued to keep busy throughout the year. During FY 97, they participated in and controlled 113 hazardous materials incidents and 12 technical rescue incidents.

Our technical rescue crews are called upon when incidents involve any type of difficult rescue, including rock rescues, below-grade rescues, cave-ins, and structural collapses. Additionally, firefighters assigned to stations near bodies of water are prepared to conduct water rescue operations. In FY 97, personnel performed 32 water rescue incidents.



Significant Incidents

July 1996

- 9812 Lakepointe Drive - One firefighter was injured and another one was separated from the crew as a result of a fire in the basement of a townhouse.
- 8603 Westwood Center Drive - Units dispatched for a fire alarm encountered a strong odor of ammonia upon arrival at the scene. The Hazardous Materials Response Team responded and secured an ammonia leak in a print shop.
- 9220 Old Dominion Drive - A man fell while climbing at Great Falls Park. He was transported by boat before being taken by helicopter to a hospital.

August 1996

- 6319 Amherst Avenue - Upon arrival, firefighters found smoke coming from three business establishments. After determining the location of the fire, firefighters extinguished the blaze.
- 4126 Appleby Way - Technical rescue personnel removed a worker who had fallen from a pond retaining wall. The man was rescued through a storm drain.
- Fairfax County Parkway North of Lee Chapel Road - Units arrived to find a vehicle that had flipped over several times. The driver had sustained fatal injuries and three passengers were also injured.
- 5587 Rockpointe Drive - Department personnel revived a 20-year-old woman with no pulse

Average Response Times

Advanced Life Support (ALS): 4:50
 Basic Life Support (BLS): 4:47
 Suppression: 5:00
 Public Service: 6:56

(indicated in minutes and seconds)

who was found face down in a swimming pool by lifeguards.

September 1996

- Telegraph Road and South Kings Highway - Eight people were injured as a result of a multi-vehicle accident. One firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion.
- 8100 Tysons Corner Center - The entire mall was evacuated as a result of a Xylene-based solvent being used during the renovation of a restaurant.
- 8900 Richmond Highway - Four patients were treated and transported after they were bitten by a fox that was infected with rabies.
- 2012 Westwood Terrace - The combination of high winds and heavy rain from Hurricane Fran sent a large oak tree through the roof of a house. There was substantial structural damage.



October 1996

- 1305 Ross Drive - Upon arrival at this two-alarm fire, firefighters encountered heavy smoke. Two adults were rescued.
- 7920 Jones Branch Drive - Arriving units encountered a Freon leak that resulted in one injury. Approximately 100 people were evacuated.

November 1996

- 7614 Savannah Street - Seven people were rescued by using ladders as firefighters encountered a hot, smoke-filled storage room fire.
- I-95 North near Franconia Road - A vehicle and a truck collided causing the truck, its contents, and fuel to catch fire.
- 2057 Rockingham Street - Technical rescue team members recovered the body of a backhoe operator following a trench collapse.
- 6820 Commerce Street - Units treated and transported several carbon monoxide inhalation victims and then located the source.

December 1996

- 5655 Fenwick Drive - Two occupants were transported to a hospital as a result of this second-story bedroom fire. One sustained burn injuries and both suffered from smoke inhalation.
- 5420 Sideburn Road - Arriving units found two county school buses on fire and a third bus in danger of igniting as a result of an intentionally set fire. Two additional buses were vandalized.
- 14510 Lee Road - A 49-year-old man was trapped in a roller (conveyer rack). Firefighters disassembled the equipment and were able to free him.
- 11024 Granby Court - EMS personnel administered ALS protocols to a 76-year-old man in cardiac arrest whose family had been performing CPR. The man was stabilized and transported.

January 1997

- 9501 Burke Lake Road -

Arriving units found that station personnel had evacuated Fire and Rescue Station 14. The fire started in the apparatus bay and extensively damaged equipment and the station.

- 9601 Ox Road (DCDC-Lorton, Occoquan Facility) - Three patients suffering from multiple stab wounds were transported by ground to Inova Fairfax Hospital. One patient died.



- 8463 Sugar Creek Lane - This two-alarm townhouse fire claimed the life of a child and critically injured another resident.
- 9200 Old Dominion Drive - An individual fell while climbing and landed near the river. The patient was transported by boat and treated.

February 1997

- 7519 Axton Street - One firefighter was injured during operations at this two-alarm fire, which started in the basement.
- Burke Centre Parkway and Oak Leather Drive - The Hazardous Materials Response Team responded and were able to contain the 7,000 gallon diesel fuel spill.
- Greenwood Drive (Frederick County) - The Technical Rescue Operations Team

responded to Frederick County to assist in the removal of a construction worker who was trapped in a trench.

March 1997

- 2308 Archdale Road - Arriving units encountered heavy fire in the garage area extending into the breezeway, both floors, and the attic. One unconscious patient was removed from the dwelling and a firefighter was treated for dehydration. The patient later died as a result of burns.

- 2300 Block of Centreville Road - Citizens rescued the driver of a vehicle that crashed and burst into flames. Arriving units extinguished the fire and performed CPR. The patient later died as a result of burns. Two other victims were transported to medical facilities.

- 915 Leigh Mill Road - Arriving units encountered a large volume of fire on the first floor that extended to the second floor and attic through exterior windows and overhang. A lack of water supply forced a tanker into shuttle operations.

- 7725 Canal Court - A fire originated in the basement and extended to the first and second floor. The non-hydrant area and remote location of the structure contributed to the amount of damage.

April 1997

- 7368 Lee Highway - This fire spread from the second to the third floor of a garden apartment building. Three apartment units sustained significant fire damage while others received smoke and water damage.

- 4811 Olley Lane - The basement and first floor of this vacant rambler sustained extensive fire damage. Weakened floors forced crews to redeploy to defensive operations. The fire also extended to the attic.

- 6841 Elm Street - This postal facility was evacuated as a result of an unknown substance that was leaking from a package. This resulted in extended operations, traffic congestion, and media interest. It was determined that the substance was not life threatening.

May 1997

- Dulles Toll Road - A moving van approaching the toll plaza was unable to stop, swerved to miss other vehicles, rolled, and struck impact barriers. The road was closed while the driver was extricated and then flown to Inova Fairfax Hospital.

- Route 495 at Route 236 - While entering Route 495, a fully-loaded gasoline tanker rolled over. The area was foamed, leaking gas was contained, and the remaining product was off loaded. The Beltway was closed in both directions for about 12 hours.

- 5716 South Van Dorn Street - Roofing materials ignited on the roof of a nine-story hotel. A 1-3/4 inch standpipe line controlled the fire. Extensive overhaul was required to remove all the burning materials.

- 3300 Gallows Road - The Emergency Department of the Fairfax Hospital was evacuated when employees experienced skin irritation after exposure to a patient with skin irritation. Patient developed symptoms after opening a letter.

June 1997

- I-95 (under Backlick Road)- A van carrying eight passengers overturned and all occupants were ejected. All patients were transported by air.

- 7305 Beechwood Lane - A



two-story home was struck by lightning that resulted in heavy fire in the attic. The interior attack was abandoned following a ruptured soft sleeve. The building was then evacuated and defensive operations were initiated.

- 12200 Henderson Road - A



100-year-old farm house located in a non-hydrant area sustained damage in a back bedroom. A quick attack limited the spread and damage caused by the fire.

- 2717 West Ox Road - A six-year-old child fell from a horse, became tangled in the bridle, and was dragged for about 100 yards. The child was stabilized and flown to the Inova Fairfax Hospital Emergency Room, but later died.

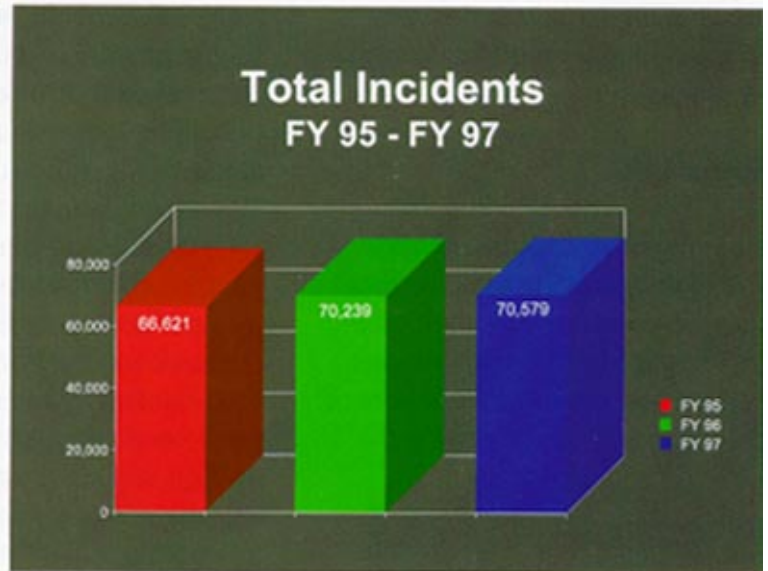
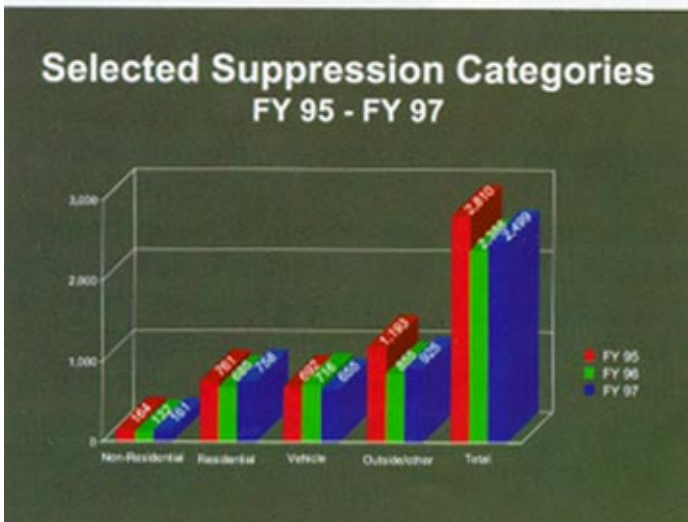


Photo by Paul Torpey



Fire Loss Data FY 95 - FY 97

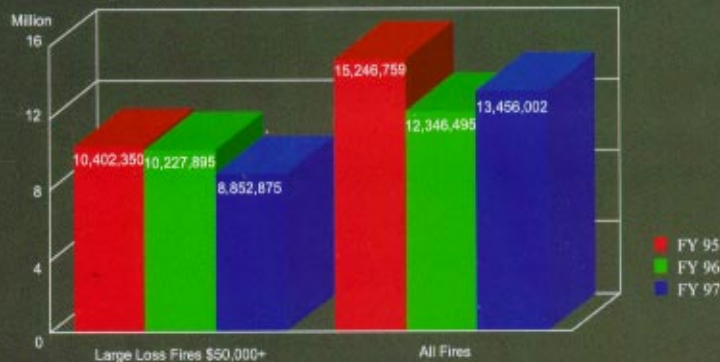
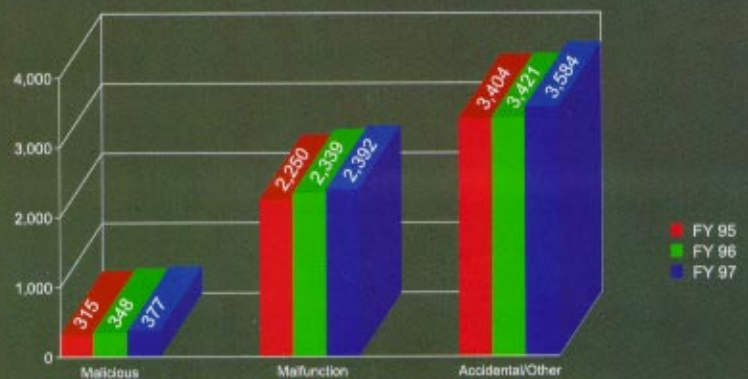


Photo by Captain Steven Weissman



False Alarms FY 95 - FY 97



Emergency Services Data

General

<u>Sites/Areas</u>		<u>Positions</u>		<u>Staffed Functions</u>			
Stations:	34	Uniformed	1,121	Paramedic Engines	34	Quints	1
Battalions:	6	Civilian, Full Time	84	Medics	20	Trucks	12
Fire Boxes:	479	Civilian, Seasonal	92	Ambulances	18	Squads	7

Response Data

<u>Incidents</u>		<u>Technical Services</u>	
EMS	48,357	Water Rescue	32
Suppression	18,383	Hazardous Materials	113
Public Service	3,839	Technical Rescue	12
Totals	70,579	Total	157

Emergency Medical Services Data

Drownings/Submersions/Suffocations	6	Cardiac Arrest	469
Helicopter Transports	193	Resuscitations	122
Patients Transported	32,423	Poisonings/Overdoses	562
Burns	254	Motor Vehicle Deaths/Injuries	5,849
Pre-Arrival Aid	115		

Selected Fire Suppression Data

<u>Fires</u>			<u>False Alarms</u>	
Structure, residential	758		Malicious	377
Cause # 1: Failure to clean	80		Malfunction	2,392
Cause # 2: Equipment unattended	76		Accidental/Other	3,584
Cause # 3: Unable to determine	68			
Structure, non-residential	161		<u>Smoke Detectors</u>	
Cause # 1: Unlawful incendiary	30		Alerts (structure fires)	577
Cause # 2: Unable to determine	18		Available, not working	160
Cause # 3: Electrical failure	16			
Vehicle	655		<u>Inspections, field</u>	347
Cause # 1: Unable to determine	221			
Cause # 2: Mechanical failure	98		<u>Dollar Loss</u>	
			All fires	\$13,456,002
Outside/Other	925			

Emergency Services

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Rate:	20.0 %
Appropriate Unit Arrival Rates:	
ALS (within 6 minutes of dispatch)	79.2%
Suppression (within 5 minutes of dispatch)	58.1%



Volunteer Services

Twelve Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD), with more than 800 volunteers, provide significant contributions to the citizens of Fairfax County as part of the unique public-private partnership with the Fire and Rescue Department. Since the first volunteer fire company was established in the County in 1923, citizen volunteer participation in fire and emergency services provide valuable resources in assets and personnel.

The VFDs currently own the land and buildings of 11 of the 34 fire stations in the County. Property value is in excess of \$31 million. These stations include: Annandale, Bailey's Crossroads, Burke, Centreville, Dunn Loring, Franconia, Great Falls, Greater Springfield, Lorton, Vienna, and West Annandale.

Additionally, the VFDs have been in partnership with the County at McLean, Fair Oaks, Kingstowne, and West Centreville. In these arrangements, the County owns the buildings and the VFDs provide equipment, apparatus, and other support.

VFDs own nearly one-third of the fleet of the vehicles used in providing fire and rescue services to County citizens. These vehicles have a value in excess of \$9 million. Thirty-two vehicles are used

on a daily basis as front-line units.

Volunteer participation includes both operational and administrative activities. Over 400 volunteers provided over 90,000 hours of operational service in FY 97. This included standby coverage for over 100 community events. They also provided first aid services during the Fairfax Fair, the Bull Run Jamboree, and ambulance crews for half of all performances at Wolf Trap Farm Park. VFDs currently staff four canteen units which are called upon whenever a significant incident occurs in the County.

An additional 400 administrative volunteers provided over 77,000 hours of service through fundraising activities, building maintenance, canteen services, and chaplain service.

In FY 97 volunteers completed 30,985 hours of training which included in-station drills and formal training offered by the Fire and Rescue Academy.

VFD personnel are committed to providing a variety of services to the citizens of the community. Whether they are staffing units in various stations or providing community outreach and education, these dedicated volunteers provide valuable assistance to the citizens of Fairfax County.



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Urban Search and Rescue Task Force

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department continues to maintain the sponsorship of its Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Force. This 62 person team of specialized rescuers is one of 27 that are part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue Response System and one of two US&R teams that represent the United States when deploying to international disasters. They are also a part of the Agency for International Development. The task force is designed to respond to major disasters and perform heavy search and rescue operations, specializing in collapsed building structures of reinforced concrete.

The task force is comprised of a command element, search, rescue, medical, and technical components and is staffed around-the-clock.

The task force travels with approximately 25 tons of equipment, making it self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.

The task force is equipped with specialized resources, such as electronic search equipment and search dogs; rescue tools for performing concrete and metal cutting, lifting and shoring operations; and rope rescue. The medical component is designed and equipped to address all critical care needs of task force personnel and rescued victims. The task force also has the capability to detect and monitor hazardous materials, and work with heavy lifting equipment. All personnel are trained in one of the five components and many are cross-trained in several disciplines. This valuable resource is available for use in Fairfax County disasters.



During the past two years, the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force has been deployed twice by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In early July 1996, the task force was deployed to the Olympics in Atlanta as a standby in the event of a large scale incident which would require specialized rescue. A total of 12 FEMA task forces spent seven days each on site for more than five weeks.

On September 6, 1996, the task force was requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in anticipation of Hurricane Fran, a fast approaching Category 3 hurricane. Later that night, the storm devastated the southern coast of North Carolina and caused considerable inland damage.



VA-TF 1 photos by Captain Steven Weissman



Fire Prevention

Hazardous Materials

In 1994, the Board of Supervisors recognized the growing incidence of hazardous materials exposure within Fairfax County and directed the establishment of the Hazardous Materials Services Section. Their primary mission is to protect public health and safety and the environment from hazardous materials. They manage hazardous materials through investigation and oversight of releases, complaint inspections, blasting site and equipment inspections, bomb incidents and threats, legislative oversight, and planning.

The Hazardous Materials Services Section now includes an Enforcement Branch, Technical Support Branch, and Fire Investigations Branch.

Enforcement

The Enforcement Branch manages, maintains, and administers the Hazardous Materials Enforcement Program, Hazardous Materials

Release Oversight and Monitoring Program, and the Explosives Use Management Program through preliminary assessment of incidents and complaints. They also coordinate investigations and oversight actions, and code and ordinance enforcement related to the use, transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. They also conduct criminal investigations of hazardous materials violations, hazardous waste dumps, and other environmental crimes.

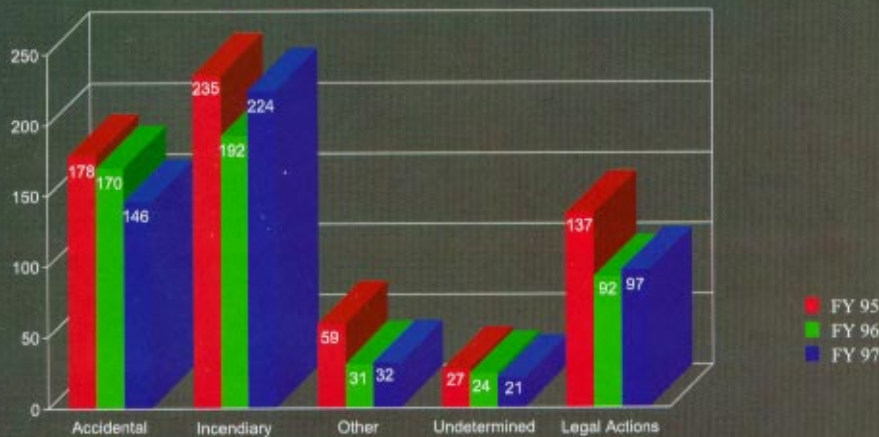
During FY 97, they responded to 326 complaints, conducted 13 new investigations, and managed 49 oversights. The Explosives Use Management Program conducted 528 site inspections, responded to 17 complaints, and issued 137 blasting and transportation permits.

Technical Support

The Technical Support Branch manages, maintains, and administers the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response and Contingency Planning Program, Legislative and Regulatory Oversight Program, Significant Hazards Surveillance Program, Emergency Incident Cost Recovery Program, SARA Tier II Program and provides staff support to the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee. They are also responsible for the operation of LAB 1, the mobile fire and hazardous materials investigations lab.

During FY 97, LAB 1 was in service during 15 fire investigations, 24 hazardous materials investigations, and four public service calls. Additionally, the

Investigated Fires FY 95 - FY 97



Branch recovered \$95,931 through the Cost Recovery Program, updated and published a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan, and identified 55 hazardous facilities and 700 facilities under the SARA Tier II Program.

Fire Investigations

The Fire Investigations Branch continues to carry the primary responsibility for determining the cause and circumstances of all fires and explosions in Fairfax County.

They are staffed with ten career Fire and Rescue Department employees. Fire investigators receive extensive training in fire origin and cause determination, post-blast explosives scene examination, and law enforcement practices and procedures. Fire investigators provide 24 hour coverage ensuring rapid response to any fire or explosion. Ebby, our accelerant detection canine, is available to assist investigators when flammable liquids are involved.

Information obtained from investigations is used to educate county citizens in fire safety; to provide information for review of building and fire codes pertaining to material fabrication, installation, and use; and has generated product recalls for unsafe conditions. The quality of life in Fairfax County is enhanced by vigorously pursuing prosecution of any criminal act associated with fire or explosives.

Fire Data

Investigations

Accidental fires investigated	146	Closed	146
Incendiary fires investigated	224	Closed	37
Other investigations	32	Closed	17
Fires undetermined	21		
TOTAL	423		200

Fire Types

	Value	Loss
Accidental fires	\$ 607,605,780	\$7,554,625
Incendiary fires	862,139,969	1,778,035
Other	28,307,504	3,950
Undetermined	8,375,020	1,158,800
TOTAL	\$ 1,506,428,273	\$ 10,495,410

Fire Causes

Electrical	45
Mechanical Failure	8
Kitchen/Cooking Hazards	15
Heating/Air Conditioning	2
Fireplace Ashes/Defective Chimney	6
Smoking Materials	23
Candles	10
Children with Matches/Lighter	0
Fireworks or Explosives	4
Flammable Liquids/Vapors	6
Combustibles Near Heat Source	10
Careless Burning	0
Spontaneous Ignition	3
Lightning	3
Improper Use of Heat Source	1
Other	10
TOTAL	146

Other Investigations

Explosives and Devices	11
Fireworks	7
Threats to Burn	3
Attempted Arson	1
False Alarms/Tampering	2
Other	7
TOTAL	32

Legal Actions

Arrests	27
Petitions (Juveniles)	30
Exceptional Closures	40
TOTAL	97

Inspections

The mission of the Inspections Branch is to protect life and property from the effects of fire through timely inspection, education, and enforcement of the Virginia and Fairfax County Fire Prevention Codes. During FY 97, over 24,000 inspections were conducted. More than 5,300 permits were issued and 3,405 home day care inspections were performed. There was also an 11 percent

increase in overall permit issuing from the previous year. The Branch worked hard to maintain a user friendly 24 hour turnaround for all inspection requests.

Additionally, the branch continues to be responsible for inspecting all new and existing petroleum storage tank installations, and inspecting sites when tanks are removed or abandoned.

Fire Protection Systems

The Fire Protection Systems Branch is divided into three units with a staff of 23 fire inspectors and consists of the Acceptance Testing Unit, Retesting Unit, and Special Operations Unit.

The Acceptance Testing Unit witnesses and monitors tests on fire protection systems in buildings under construction and renovation. The Retesting Unit witnesses annual retests of fire protection systems in existing buildings.

The Special Operations Unit reviews fire lane plans, ensures fire lanes are established according to code requirements, and assists building management with building evacuation and fire drill planning.

These units conducted over 1,280 inspections and generated \$1.1 million in revenue for the County's General Fund.

Additionally, the Fire Prevention Division has been involved in the identification and ongoing remediation of faulty Omega fire sprinklers. After extensive testing by independent testing laboratories, we determined that the Omega sprinkler head was unreliable during simulated fire conditions and have launched a county-wide removal and replacement program. Over 35,000 faulty sprinkler heads have been replaced.

Engineering Plans Review

The Engineering Plans Review Branch is responsible for reviewing all building, site, detection, and suppression plans to ensure code compliance in the area of fire protection and life safety systems. Staff reviewed more than 8,800 plans.

Additionally, the branch also continued its "Engineer on Call" program for evaluating code related problems. Staff members also made follow-up visits to specific sites to resolve code-related problems identified by the inspection and testing staff.

To orient and familiarize the architectural and design communities with the requirements of code compliance and better fire protection, engineers spent about 100 hours on monthly meetings with architects, designers, and the general public. The staff also worked to keep other members of the department current on the code reference package regarding issues relating to sprinklers and fire alarms and also provided support for the Omega sprinkler project.

Revenue and Records

The mission of the Revenue and Records Branch is to collect fees for all Fire Marshal activities, including collection of fees for plans review, field testing, inspections, and fire prevention code permits, including hazardous materials. Functions and approximate annual production numbers include:

- Provided initial point of contact for Fire Prevention Code permitting and information. (Approximately 5,500 permits processed each year). Collected fees for Fire Prevention Code permitting (approximately \$685,000).

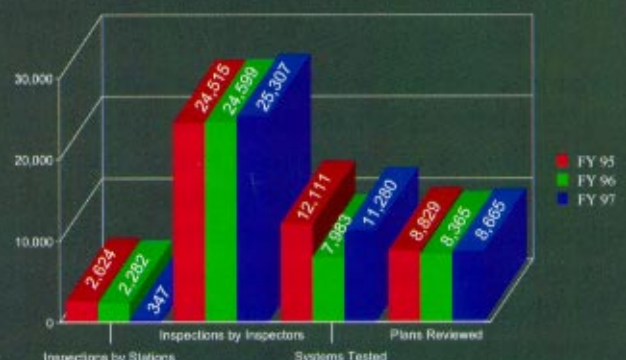
- Maintained the regulatory and other legally required records for fire prevention, including Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests and business inquiries. (Approximately 300,000 records averaging more than a million individual pages of records were processed. Two thousand record searches were conducted). Collected hourly inspection fees for Fire Marshal required inspections. (Approximately \$760,000).

- Provided customer information and guidance on permitting, fees, processes, and procedure aspects of regulatory requirements.

- Collected fees for fire protection system acceptance testing inspections (approximately \$380,000).

- Collected fees for fire protection system plan review (approximately \$850,000).

Inspections and Testing FY 95 - FY 97





Support Services

The Fire and Rescue Department's Support Services Division provides direct technical support to frontline Emergency Services personnel in the areas of training, apparatus, telecommunications, automated systems, and information processing. These functions are vital to the daily efficient operation of the department which relies on trained personnel, county-wide radio communication, and operating response vehicles to protect the County around the clock.

The Fire and Rescue Academy provides state accredited certification and recertification training to career, volunteer, and civilian personnel. New firefighters must undergo approximately 21 weeks of comprehensive training at the academy prior to being assigned to a station.

Nearly 300,000 student hours of career firefighter training is logged each year at the academy including refresher and specialized training classes, along with drills conducted at the fire and rescue stations.

More than 1,700 pieces of communications

equipment, including mobile and portable radios, pagers, cellular phones, and mobile data terminals for dispatching emergency calls are maintained by the Communications Section. A uniformed fire officer is assigned to the Public Safety Communication Center to provide technical and operational assistance to 911 emergency dispatchers.

The Apparatus Section staff helps maintain over 350 vehicles, including 34 engine companies, 12 ladder truck companies, 7 rescue squad companies, and 38 emergency medical units, as well as other specialized fire and rescue vehicles. Additionally, they are responsible for procuring new vehicles, repairing breathing apparatus and specialized tools such as fans and chain saws, and testing routine equipment performance.

A reliable, automated information management system provides department personnel and County citizens with information used in resource planning, efficiency studies, and analysis.

The Systems Management Section is responsible for the maintenance, management, and user support of the department's automated computer system. Staff members not only oversee the operation of over 140 personal computers, two local area networks, one wide area network, the Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD), and 35 remote workstation sites, but also coordinate the manipulation and retrieval of data contained within the information system.

Communications

With internet, cellular phones, pagers, and personal communications services (PCS), the Fire and Rescue Department continues to install and upgrade communications equipment.

During the past year, the Communications Section has been working with the Department of Information and Technology and other public safety

agencies to design and build a communications network for the future. The communications section has laid the groundwork to install and transition to our new and advanced 800 MHz digital trunking radio system that will be installed soon.

The current radio system is outdated and our new radio system ensures better coverage, and will allow fire and rescue personnel to coordinate with police and other neighboring jurisdictions when sharing resources in mutual aid emergencies. Our goal is to be able to communicate with a singular radio system

creating a seamless communications network.

Additionally, new mobile data computers will be installed on all fire trucks and ambulances as part of an ongoing project to improve dispatch and data communications. The terminals will be in-

stalled next year, with future enhancements to take place later.

The Communications Section also continues to work closely with the call-taking and dispatch staff at PSCC and to update and refine the emergency medical dispatch protocols.

Fire and Rescue Academy

The Fire and Rescue Academy hosted more than 275,000 hours of on-campus training last year.

Highlighted training events include:

- Two 21-week recruit schools were conducted graduating 48 probationary firefighters. This basic skills program consisted of approximately 150 hours of practical training in emergency medical care and 650 hours of hands-on fundamental firefighting and rescue skills.

- In addition to initial vocational training of firefighters, the Basic Training Section conducted refresher and advanced skills training for recent graduates. The Fire and Rescue Academy conducted three 40-hour probationary firefighter schools during FY 97.

- In conjunction with the Emergency Services Division, Fire and Rescue Academy personnel conducted a wide variety of specialty schools. Specialty school training included: Truck Company Operations, Rescue Squad Operations, Technical Rescue, and Hazardous Materials.

- Hosted over 33,000 hours of volunteer training. The training was done over a period of 413 evening and weekend sessions. Twenty-four volunteers were certified at the Firefighter I/II level, 67 volunteers were certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, and 71 volunteers are enrolled in certification programs.

- The Emergency Medical Services Training Section assisted in the development and delivery of the Emergency Medical Services training for all Fire and Rescue Department personnel. This training included certification and recertification of all affiliated Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians. Additionally, the EMS Section developed in-station training packages and provided annual recertification for CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator and delivered more than 32,000 hours of training.



Staff Services

The Staff Services Division of the Fire and Rescue Department manages and coordinates equipment procurement, fiscal policies, personnel recruitment, technical personnel matters, facility repairs, and the overall management of the Department's \$69 million budget.

The Resource Management Section directs the formulation, preparation, submission, and implementation of the Department's annual budget. This includes: grant funds, quarterly budget reviews, and spending plans. The Department's supply and equipment requirements are coordinated by this section which ensures the availability of consumable resources used in emergency service delivery and daily operations. Accountable assets are audited annually and tracked from time of purchase until they are no longer serviceable. They provided the necessary logistical support for seven major incidents and numerous training exercises during FY 97. They also conducted 1,740 requests for facility

repairs and had an enviable completion rate of over 98 percent.

The Payroll Section processes time sheets for over 1,200 employees bi-weekly, tracking all personnel evaluations, and managing all employee benefit programs. They also provided staff support for hiring 48 new firefighters and 34 retiring employees.

The Recruitment Branch maintains an eligibility list of qualified applicants that reflect the diverse communities within Fairfax County. During FY 97, the Recruitment Branch opened up the application process for the first time since 1995. This process produced more than 1,100 applications.

Although the application process is closed, the Recruitment Branch remains actively involved in community outreach programs by attending job fairs and cultural festivals. On occasion, applications may be accepted at these events. As part of the process, each applicant must successfully complete the seven-step application process for hiring eligibility.



Occupational Health and Safety Program

As part of the Fire and Rescue Department's commitment to excellence, we have taken another step forward with the establishment of the Occupational Health and Safety Program (OHSP). Our long-term goal with this program is to maintain a healthy work force, both mentally and physically. The program should minimize occupational injuries, disability retirements and workers compensation costs, while complying with occupational health and safety regulatory requirements. The program has been developed by the County to ensure that compliance is achieved in the occupational health regulatory arena.

The OHSP consists of the Occupational Health Clinic (OHC), the Code Compliance and Safety Section that includes shift safety officers, and other support personnel. The shift safety officers provide 24-hour emergency coverage. The Infectious Disease Management Branch manages exposure incidents and provides follow-up treatment as necessary for personnel who are exposed. Additionally, the Fitness Section continues the department's efforts to provide fitness programs, equipment, and peer support.

In May 1997, the OHC began operations by providing a consolidated state-of-the-art occupational health screening for applicants and uniformed personnel. The OHC is staffed with medical personnel from the Hunter Medical Company of Vienna, Virginia.

The OHC is located at two sites in the Public Safety Complex.

The Fire and Rescue Department is now able to conduct all medical and fitness-related testing in one centralized facility and provides a comprehensive report to the employee regarding their state of health and fitness. The patients receive a comprehensive review of their medical and fitness information by the physician.

This integrated program also includes the elements of surveillance and monitoring, prevention, risk reduction, mandated reporting, education, and training. It also provides guidance, management oversight, data and communications, and medical services for early detection and prevention of job-related illness and injury.



Public Information and Life Safety Education

Public Information and Life Safety Education continues to fulfill the Fire and Rescue Department's charter of keeping the citizens and community of Fairfax County informed about its policies, procedures, and operations. Through a proactive program of providing information to the media and educating the general public, the Fire and Rescue Department strives to earn the confidence of its citizens in everything it does.

During the fiscal year thousands of citizens were reached through a myriad of educational presentations. Targeted groups included: children, adult groups, civic and homeowner organizations, business groups, and senior citizens. Over 600 educational programs were coordinated and conducted that reached approximately 130,000 citizens—life safety education remains the cornerstone and foundation of our fire safety and prevention program.

About 120,000 fairgoers also had the opportunity to participate in our award-winning public safety

information display at the Fairfax Fair. It was our most successful fair ever.

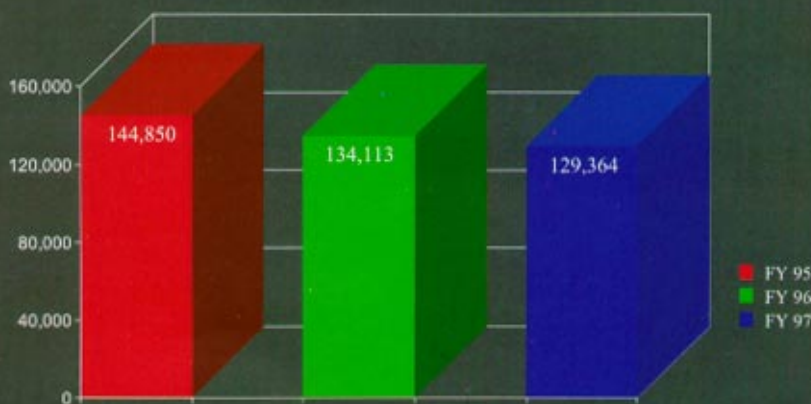
Educating young children on the dangers of playing with matches and fire experimentation remains a high priority within the department. The Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program individually counseled over 100 school-aged children. Referrals came from parents, the juvenile justice system, and other county agencies and provided an alternate approach to criminal prosecution for young offenders.

Elementary students throughout the county almost on a daily basis received some form of life safety education. Firefighters and staff completed their goal of visiting all third-grade classrooms to present our popular Project S.A.F.E. (Students Acknowledge Fire Education) program.

Our Every-Step-of-the-Way program continued to target the county's high-risk population—our young and elderly. We reached out to the children by presenting programs at preschools, Head Start pro-



Citizens Educated FY 95 - FY 97



grams, daycare centers, and libraries. Additionally, training workshops were conducted for preschool teachers, child-care providers, and parents raising the awareness level of life safety.

The growing senior citizen population received life safety education programs through a variety of different groups. These included county operated senior centers, retirement communities, neighborhood groups, and church groups. In-service fire safety training was also provided to the staff at numerous assisted living and skilled nursing facilities throughout the county.

We continued to coordinate the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) program. Over the years, it has helped give hundreds of special children a brighter and more confident outlook on life. The program is jointly sponsored by the Greater Metropolitan Washington Regional Fire and Rescue Departments, Northern Virginia Kiwanis Club, and Children's National Medical Center. This value-added program raises money to purchase much needed rehabilitative equipment not covered by insurance for young burn victims. All monies are raised through the collection and recycling of aluminum cans throughout the metropolitan area.

Through the Washington Area Council of Governments (COG), area fire and rescue departments in cooperation with Radio Shack (a subsidiary of the Tandy Corporation), and WUSA Television (Channel 9), our staff continued to participate in the Operation Fire Safe program.

Operation Fire Safe is a three-year community service initiative to provide free smoke detectors in residences that do not have them. Along with a free home safety survey, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has installed over 1,500 smoke detectors.

Through referrals from the Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, smoke detectors are provided to our citizens with hearing loss. Our staff coordinated a visual smoke detector loan program to install detectors with strobe lights in addition to audible alarms for their residences. The citizens agree to return the detectors before moving or when they purchase their own.

Our public information program works hard at being aggressive in telling the story of our firefighters and department activities. We responded to numerous media queries which provided information to the general public about major fire and medical emergency incidents. Public information officers answered on the average 30 calls daily and responded to dozens of on-scene emergencies throughout the year.

Fairfax County Government Cable Channel 16 continued to play a major role in our public information program. Recent productions included public service announcements on 12-Lead EKG, and latch key safety.

Line Copy remains the premier publication for our internal audience and is a key communications tool for the Fire Chief and the department as a whole.

Community Service



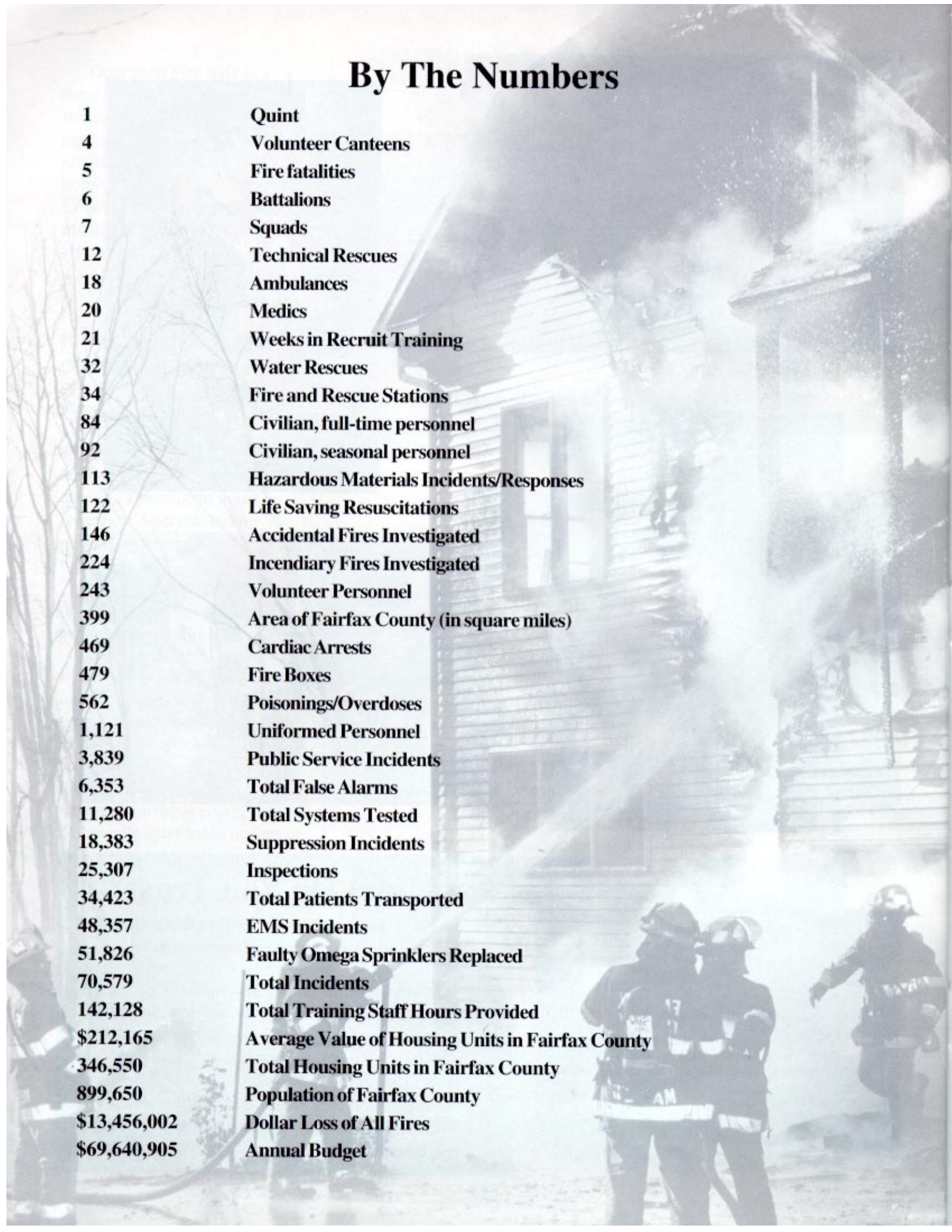


Whom Do You Trust?

Percentage of Americans who say they have "a lot" of trust in the following groups or institutions:

People in your immediate family	84%
Fire department in your area	78%
Your boss or supervisor	51%
Police Department in your area	46%
People in your neighborhood	45%
Public schools in your area	32%
Local television news channels in your area	24%
Local daily papers in your area	22%

By The Numbers

A grayscale photograph of a residential fire scene. Thick white smoke billows from a two-story house. In the foreground, several firefighters in full protective gear are visible, some holding hoses. The scene is dramatic and captures the intensity of the emergency response.

1	Quint
4	Volunteer Canteens
5	Fire fatalities
6	Battalions
7	Squads
12	Technical Rescues
18	Ambulances
20	Medics
21	Weeks in Recruit Training
32	Water Rescues
34	Fire and Rescue Stations
84	Civilian, full-time personnel
92	Civilian, seasonal personnel
113	Hazardous Materials Incidents/Responses
122	Life Saving Resuscitations
146	Accidental Fires Investigated
224	Incendiary Fires Investigated
243	Volunteer Personnel
399	Area of Fairfax County (in square miles)
469	Cardiac Arrests
479	Fire Boxes
562	Poisonings/Overdoses
1,121	Uniformed Personnel
3,839	Public Service Incidents
6,353	Total False Alarms
11,280	Total Systems Tested
18,383	Suppression Incidents
25,307	Inspections
34,423	Total Patients Transported
48,357	EMS Incidents
51,826	Faulty Omega Sprinklers Replaced
70,579	Total Incidents
142,128	Total Training Staff Hours Provided
\$212,165	Average Value of Housing Units in Fairfax County
346,550	Total Housing Units in Fairfax County
899,650	Population of Fairfax County
\$13,456,002	Dollar Loss of All Fires
\$69,640,905	Annual Budget

Excellence

In

Service



Terry W. Hall received the 1997 Firefighter of the Year Award. Pictured from left to right: Chief Glenn A. Gaines, Technician Terry W. Hall, and Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



Renee F. Henningsen and Captain Elliott H. Rubino both received the A. Heath Onthank Memorial Award.



Eight firefighters received recognition for their acts of valor at the 19th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. Pictured from left to right: Chief Glenn A. Gaines, Lieutenant Jerome I. Williams, Captain Michael J. Ward, Master Technician Michael Huffman, Technician George Lewis, Technician Michael A. Weldon, Technician Beverly Carrol, Technician John Chabal, and Captain Donald Simpson.



Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty God
Wherever flames may rage,

Give me the strength to save a life
Whatever be its age.

Help me embrace a little child
Before it's too late or save an
Older person from the horror of
That fate. Enable me to be alert and
Hear the weakest shout and
Quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling and to give
The best in me to guard my every
Neighborhood and protect its property.
And if according to your will while
On duty I must answer death's call,
Bless with your protecting hand my family one and all.



FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
4100 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030
1998